

4. NOTE ON BREEDING OF RUDDY SHELDUCK,  
*TADORNA FERRUGINEA* (PALLAS) AT DELHI  
ZOOLOGICAL PARK

During winter months, the ponds of Delhi Zoological Park teem with water fowl of every description. Eleven species of migratory ducks including Ruddy Shelduck have been observed and recorded from November to February each year.

The ponds which were constructed in 1959 for displaying pinioned water birds are about two acres in area. These ponds are part of a continuous channel system forming a barrier on one side for the animal enclosures. A few prosopis trees growing on four small islands in the ponds, provide ideal nesting places for cormorants, egrets, herons and painted storks which congregate on these trees in large numbers during their nesting season. Clusters of typha and other reeds growing along the banks of these ponds provide good cover for the birds to nest.

The Ruddy Shelduck is largely a palaeartic breeding species and it is thus of interest to record that Ruddy Shelducks have bred twice in the ponds of Delhi Zoological Park which is outside their usual breeding range.

On 22nd April, 1969, a pair were seen with seven freshly hatched ducklings in the ponds. The parents kept a constant watch always keeping them in sight. Out of the seven, four fledged, and three were killed by crows and kites.

Again in 1970, a Shelduck laid six eggs on one of the islands of the pond. Four hatched on 27th April, 1970 and all the four ducklings fledged.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR,  
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5. THE PIED MYNA, *STURNUS CONTRA*  
(LINNAEUS) IN BOMBAY

After the onset of monsoon, on 29 June, 1969, I saw a mixed flock of the Common [*Acridotheres tristis* (Linnaeus)] and the Pied Myna (*Sturnus contra* Linnaeus) feeding in a marshy corner in the compound of the Fertilizer Corporation of India, Trombay, Bombay. The Pied Myna was more numerous and some of them appeared to be juvenile.